

“At-a-Glance” Overview:

Priority Schools (formerly Persistently Lowest Achieving)

What are Priority Schools?

Schools in the bottom 5% of the Top-to-Bottom ranking¹

How are Priority Schools determined?

Based on the Top-to-Bottom ranking methodology which includes data from achievement, improvement, and achievement gap standardized scores

All schools with two years of data for 30 or more students in two or more tested subjects are included in the ranking

What happens once a Priority School is named?

Local Education Agencies (LEA) with schools designated as Priority Schools will be required to implement one of four intervention models as described in the US Department of Education’s Final Requirements for School Improvement Grants:

- Turnaround Model
- Transformation Model
- Restart Model
- School Closure

The timeline for intervention planning and implementation is initiated.

Any school designated as a Priority School on the 2012 list that was previously designated as “Persistently Lowest Achieving” will follow the timeline as mandated in the state law.

A school now designated as a Priority School that was previously designated as “Persistently Lowest Achieving” will follow the timeline as mandated in the state law

How does a school exit Priority School status?

For a school to exit Priority School status, it has to receive a Green, Lime, Yellow, or Orange on the Accountability Scorecard (beginning in 2013) showing that it has:

- Met all interim measurements of progress for Priority Schools (approved plan, leading and lagging indicators)
- Met proficiency and/or improvement targets on average as a school
- Increased the proficiency rate of all traditional subgroups
- Increased the proficiency rate of their very lowest performing students

Schools designated as a Priority School must either meet aggressive proficiency targets (toward 85% of students proficient by 2022), or demonstrate significant improvement by the close of the third year of implementation or the fourth year overall in the Priority School intervention

¹The US Department of Education requires that the number of schools identified as Priority Schools is equal to at least 5% of the state’s Title I schools; thus, the number schools designated as Priority may be slightly greater than 5%.